**Than versus Then**Sarah Bobko

**Common Errors:**  
- Many people misuse the words than and then because they look and sound similar (when they are not pronounced distinctly).

**Definition of Grammar Rule:**  
- **Than** is a conjunction used for introducing the second part of a comparison.  
- **Then** is an adverb used to indicate a time, the order in which things occur, and in that case.

**Grade Level Targeted & Rationale:**   
This rule should be understood by the end of grade eight, so I think that this lesson could be implemented in a grade nine class to assess whether or not students have internalized the rule or not.

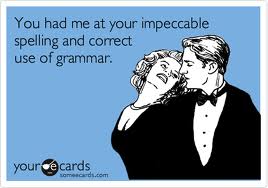
**Activity:**  
1. Ask the whole class: Do you know the difference between than versus then?  
2. Ask the whole class: Why do you think that we mix them up so often?  
3. Then, explain to the whole class why they are misused so often.  
4. Next, give the whole class the definition of the grammar rule.   
3. After that, give the students a small quiz to fill out independently (See Appendix A). The quiz should only take about 10 minutes to complete.   
4. Take up the quiz as a whole class, and discuss student answers to check for understanding.

**Appendix A**

**Instructions:**

Fill in the correct circle for each statement.

1. My English teacher – Rosalie – is better (then, than) yours.

2. I read the book, (then, than) I watched the movie.

3. You have more knowledge about poetry (then, than) I do.

4. I finished my book, (then, than) I bought another one.

5. This test on Monday is going to be easier (then, than) the last one.

6. It is understood (then, than) that there will be no class during your second practicum.

7. If you need to use the washroom during class, (then, than) go!

**Resources:**

Boyle, T., & Sullivan, K.D.(2006). *The gremlins of grammar: A guide to conquering the   
 mischievous myths that plague American English*. New York: McGraw-Hill.